United Nations A/C.2/63/L.16

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
29 October 2008

Original: English

**Sixty-third session**

**Second Committee**

Agenda item 49 (e)

**Sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

**Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution**

# Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 58/211 of 23 December 2003, 61/202 of 20 December 2006, 62/193 of 19 December 2007 and other resolutions relating to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

*Reasserting its commitment* to combating and reversing desertification and drought/land degradation, eradicating extreme poverty, promoting sustainable development in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas and improving the livelihoods of people affected by drought and/or desertification,

*Determined* to build upon the momentum and to boost the spirit of international solidarity generated by the designation of 2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification, and welcoming the adoption of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018),

* On behalf of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

08-57699 (E) 301008

*Reaffirming* the universal membership of the Convention, and acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions in the world,

*Emphasizing* that desertification and drought/land degradation seriously threaten the ability of developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that the timely and effective implementation of the Convention would help to achieve these goals,

*Concerned* about the negative impacts desertification, land degradation, loss of biological diversity and climate change have on each other, while emphasizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner,

*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3] which recognizes the Convention as one of the tools for poverty eradication,

*Recognizing* the need to provide the secretariat of the Convention with stable, adequate and predictable resources in order to enable it to continue to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and timely manner,

*Welcoming* the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session to consider, inter alia, the issue of desertification and drought during its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions,[4]

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Germany for hosting the High-level Policy Dialogue in Bonn on 27 May 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;[5]

2. *Reaffirms its resolve* to support and strengthen the implementation of the Convention[1] with a view to addressing causes of desertification and land degradation, as well as poverty resulting from land degradation, through, inter alia, the mobilization of adequate and predictable financial resources, the transfer of technology and capacity-building at all levels;

3. *Also reaffirms* its decision to declare the decade 2010-2020 as the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification;

4. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue the administrative renewal and reform of the secretariat and realign its functions in order to fully implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and bring them into line with the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

---

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I.

[5] A/62/276, annex II.

5. *Notes* the request made for an assessment of the Global Mechanism by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations, and looks forward to its findings,[6] which are to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session;

6. *Reiterates its call upon* Governments, where appropriate, in collaboration with relevant multilateral organizations, including the Global Environment Facility implementation agencies, to integrate desertification into their plans and strategies for sustainable development;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[7] the Convention on Biological Diversity[8] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities in the work of the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

8. *Recognizes* the potential of the Convention to contribute to addressing the global food crisis, including by protecting land from becoming degraded, in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid areas in order to offer new economic opportunities for impoverished populations living in those areas;

9. *Invites* developed countries that are parties to the Convention and other Governments, multilateral organizations, the private sector and other relevant organizations to make resources available to affected developing countries for the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention;

10. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention, in coordination with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to actively prepare for and participate in the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development with a view to ensuring that the Convention core issues, in particular those relating to land degradation, drought and desertification, are duly considered in the context of sustainable development during the deliberations of the policy session, with a view to ensuring a successful outcome from the entire cycle of the Commission;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to lend full support to the implementation of the ten-year strategy and to prioritize investment in initiatives to prevent desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, taking into account national circumstances and priorities;

12. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to consider substantially increasing resource allocation to its land degradation focal area during the next replenishment;

13. *Recognizes* the cross-sectoral nature of desertification/land degradation, and in this regard invites all relevant United Nations agencies to cooperate under the aegis of the Convention to support an effective response to land degradation, led by

---

[6] A/C.2/62/7, annex, sect. F, para. 27.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[8] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

the vision and objectives of the strategy adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session;[9]

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to extend a standing invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention to participate in its sessions when issues relating to sustainable development are discussed;

15. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, when setting the dates of its meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to help ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa";

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the implementation of the Convention, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

[9] A/C.2/62/7, annex.